

Section 16: Definitions



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Administrative Costs, authorized under the Stafford Act, are costs for preparation of applications, progress reports, audits, etc. These costs are reimbursable based on a percentage of financial assistance received.

Applicant means a State agency, local government, Native American tribe, public entity, or eligible private nonprofit organization submitting an application to the grantee for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Application means the request for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding.

Benefit-cost analysis means a quantitative procedure that assesses the desirability of a hazard mitigation measure by taking a long-term view of avoided future damages as compared to the cost of a project. The outcome of the analysis is a *benefit-cost ratio*, which demonstrates whether the net present value of benefits exceeds the net present value of costs.

44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands are regulations to implement and enforce Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Considerations are regulations for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

44 CFR Part 13, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to States and Local Governments establishes administrative requirements for Federal grants and subgrants.

44 CFR Part 14, Administration of Grants: Audits of State and Local Governments are requirements for non-Federal audits of recipients of financial assistance from FEMA.

44 CFR 206, Federal Disaster Assistance for Disasters Declared On or After November 23, 1988, are regulations for implementing the Stafford Act.

Comprehensive Building Code means an adopted law or ordinance whose purpose is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property, and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, locations, and maintenance of all buildings and structures within a jurisdiction. The Uniform Building Code, National Building Code, Standard Building Code, Council of American Building Officials One and Two Family Dwelling Code, and the International Building Code are all considered to meet this criteria.

Cost-effectiveness is determined by a systematic quantitative method for comparing the costs of alternative means of achieving the same stream of benefits or a given objective. The benefits in the context of hazard mitigation are avoided future damages and losses. Cost-effectiveness is generally determined by performing a benefit-cost analysis.

Environmental Assessment is the document that is prepared when a project does not qualify as a categorical exclusion and serves to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement is needed.

Environmental Impact Statement is the document that is prepared for all actions significantly affecting the environment.

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Environmental Justice means that Federal agencies are required to protect the environment by conducting reviews that include evaluation of the human environment (e.g., historic/archeological resource, land use, demographics, religion, politics, justice, economics, housing, infrastructure, social services, recreation, and aesthetics), the physical environment (e.g., geology, soils, climate, and hydrology), and the biological environment (e.g., plants, microbes, fish, and wildlife).

Environmental Officer is a FEMA-appointed staff who serves as a regional resource to State personnel and ensures that environmental justice is served.

Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 are the requirements to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development and to minimize harm to floodplains and wetlands. Federal decisionmakers are obligated to comply with these orders, accomplished through an eight-step decision-making process.

Executive Order 12699 requires that new construction of Federal buildings comply with appropriate seismic design and construction standards.

FEMA-State Agreement states the understandings, commitments, and conditions for assistance under which FEMA disaster assistance shall be provided. This agreement imposes binding obligations on FEMA, States, and their local governments in the form of conditions for assistance which are legally enforceable.

Finding of No Significant Impact is a determination that an action will have no significant impact on the environment.

Flood Mitigation Assistance program (FMA) is a Federal grant program through which FEMA provides financial assistance to States and communities for flood mitigation planning and activities that reduce the risk of flood damage to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Governor's Authorized Representative is the individual, designated by the Governor, who serves as the grant administrator for all funds provided under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Grant means an award of financial assistance. The total grant award shall not exceed 15 percent of the total estimated Federal assistance (excluding any associated administrative costs) provided under Sections 403, 406, 407, 408, 410, 411, 416, and 701 of the Stafford Act.

Grantee means the government to which a grant is awarded and which is accountable for the use of the funds provided. The grantee is the entire legal entity even if only a particular component of the entity is designated in the grant award document. For purposes of this program, except as noted in 44 CFR 206.436(g)(1), the State is the grantee.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, as authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, provides funding for hazard mitigation measures that are cost effective and complement existing post-disaster mitigation programs and activities by providing funding for beneficial mitigation measures that are not funded through other programs.

Hazard Mitigation Plan is the documentation of a State or local government's evaluation of natural hazards and the strategy to mitigate such hazards. States and local governments are required by Section 409 of the Stafford Act to undergo the mitigation planning process as a condition of receiving Federal disaster assistance.

Hazard Mitigation Survey Team means the FEMA/State/local survey team that is activated following disasters to identify immediate mitigation opportunities and issues to be addressed in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Hazard Mitigation Survey Team may include representatives of other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

Hazard Mitigation Survey Team Report means the report developed by the Hazard Mitigation Survey Team. It is similar in format to the Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team Report. The report identifies mitigation measures for implementation and recommends issues to be addressed in the state Hazard Mitigation Plan, including those measure recommended for funding under the HMGP.

Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage benefits under the National Flood Insurance Program may be used for elevation and/or acquisition location costs. The coverage is included under all regular NFIP policies issued or renewed after June 1, 1997.

Individual Assistance means the supplementary Federal assistance provided under the Stafford Act to individuals and families adversely affected by a major disaster or emergency.

Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team is the mitigation team that is activated following flood-related disasters pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget directive on Nonstructural Flood Protection measures and Flood Disaster Recovery, and the subsequent December 15, 1980, Interagency Agreement for Nonstructural Damage Reduction.

Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team Report means the report that is developed following any Presidentially declared flood disaster by an interagency, intergovern-mental, and interdisciplinary team. The report identifies post-flood mitigation opportunities and common post-flood recovery policies. Ideally, the report should be completed within 15 days following the disaster.

Management Costs are intended to include costs of managing or administering the HMGP that are not covered by the percentage allowance and generally include regular time salaries and approved equipment purchases.

Measure means any mitigation measure, project, or action proposed to reduce risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering from disasters. The term “measure” is used interchangeably with the term “project” in this program.

National Environmental Policy Act requires that actions affecting the environment comply with specific policies and procedures.

National Flood Insurance Program provides the availability of flood insurance in exchange for the adoption of a minimum local floodplain management ordinance that regulates new and substantially improved development in identified flood hazard areas.

Non-Federal funds means financial resources provided by sources other than the Federal Government. The term does not included funds provided to a State or local government through a Federal grant unless the authorizing statute for that grant explicitly allows the funds to be used as a match for other Federal grants.

Project means any mitigation measure, project, or action proposed to reduce risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering from disasters. The term “project” is used interchangeably with the term “measure” in this program.

Project worksheet is a report of damages caused by a major disaster or emergency including location, description, and estimate of required work that may be eligible for FEMA’s Public Assistance program.

Public Assistance is Federal financial assistance provided to State and local governments or to eligible private non-profit organizations for work that must be done, through repairs or replacement, to restore an eligible facility on the basis of its pre-disaster design and in conformity with current applicable codes, specification, and standards.

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Section 404 of the Stafford Act authorizes the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation measures.

Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes Public Assistance grants to repair, restore, or replace damaged facilities belonging to public and private nonprofit entities, and other associated expenses.

Section 409 of the Stafford Act authorizes repair of facilities to applicable codes and standards. It also requires State and local governments to prepare and implement Hazard Mitigation Plans. In these plans, State and local governments evaluate the natural hazards in the designated disaster area and identify appropriate actions to mitigate such hazards. This hazard mitigation planning is both required under Section 409 and a prerequisite for eligibility for Section 404 funds.

Standard Form 424 is the Application for Federal Assistance to be included as part of the State's overall Hazard Mitigation Application.

State Administrative Plan for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program means the plan developed by the State to describe the procedures for administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

State Hazard Mitigation Officer is the representative of a State government who serves on the Hazard Mitigation Survey Team and Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team, and who is the primary point of contact with FEMA, other Federal agencies, and local units of government in the planning and implementation of post-disaster mitigation activities.

State Hazard Mitigation Team is composed of key State agency representatives, local units of government, and other public or private sector bodies or agencies. The purpose of the State Hazard Mitigation Team is to evaluate hazards, identify strategies, coordinate resources, and implement measures that will reduce the vulnerability of people and property to damage from hazards.

State management costs are the reimbursable salaries of State personnel and necessary equipment responsible for managing the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

Subgrant means an award of financial assistance under a grant by a grantee to an eligible subgrantee.

Subgrantee means the Government or other legal entity to which a subgrant is awarded and which is accountable to the grantee for the use of the funds provided. Subgrantees can be a State agency, local government, private nonprofit organization, or Native American tribe as outlined in 44 CFR 206.434.

Subpart M, Hazard Mitigation Planning is the section of 44 CFR 206 that prescribes the actions and procedures for implementing Section 409 of the Stafford Act.

Subpart N, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, is the section of 44 CFR 206 that governs the award of hazard mitigation grants made under provisions of Section 404 of the Stafford Act.

Substantial Damage is defined as disaster-induced damages that total at least 50 percent of the pre-event fair market value of the property.

406 Mitigation or Public Assistance assists in the funding for repair of damaged facilities and infrastructures with eligible applicants. Under this program, all repairs must be made to applicable codes and standards, and damaged facilities can be improved for mitigation purposes if technically feasible, cost-effective and environmentally sound.